

Message Text

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SUBJ: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE--1742 MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 1975

1. SUMMARY: CURRENCY INSTABILITY AND INFLATION ITEM WAS TAKEN UP AGAIN. FRG REQUESTED, WITH SEVERAL WEO DELS SUPPORTING, INFO FROM SECRETARIAT ON HOW MUCH BUDGET WOULD BE REDUCED IF INFLATION RATE WERE CALCULATED AS 2 OR 3 POINTS LOWER, AND INFO ON HOW SYG WOULD ABSORB THE REDUCTION. CUBA INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DEVELOPED HOST COUNTRIES TO BEAR 80 PERCENT OF INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY COST. DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL ITEM BEGAN, WITH AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT CALLING FOR ACTION ON QUESTION OF WOMEN IN UN SECRETARIAT. PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION ITEM WAS RESUMED, WITH DISCUSSION BY PHILIPPINES AND CO-SPONSORS OF A REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION DRAFT REPORT ON JOINT INSPECTION UNIT APPROVED. END SUMMARY

2. EFFECTS OF CURRENCY INSTABILITY AND INFLATION ON THE UN SYSTEM. DEBATE ON THIS ITEM WAS REVIVED, WITH STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL WEO DELEGATIONS AND INTRODUCTION OF CUBAN DRAFT RESOLUTION. FRG ASKED CONTROLLER DEBATIN TO PROVIDE SOONEST INFO ON (1) HOW MUCH WOULD TOTAL BUDGET BE REDUCED IF 2 OR 3 PERCENT LOWER ANNUAL INFLATION RATE
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HAD BEEN USED IN CALCULATION, AND (2) HOW WOULD SECRETARIAT

DISTRIBUTE SUCH A REDUCTION WITHIN BUDGET, KEEPING IN MIND NEED TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO NEW PROGRAMS BENEFITING LDC'S. NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTED FRG REQUEST FOR INFO. URGED THAT SYG PERFORMANCE REPORT SHOW HOW SAVING HAD BEEN MADE TO ABSORB INFLATION. COMPLAINED THAT DEBATIN HAD NOT EXPLAINED PRECISELY WHY ZERO BASE APPROACH INPRACTICAL; ARGUED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WAS BEST WAY TO STIMULATE SYG TO ECONOMIZE. SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE APPROACH THAT ALL PROGRAMS MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO LAPSE AUTOMATICALLY AFTER AGREED PERIOD OF TIME, SAY SIX YEARS. NOTED THAT MANY DELS IN GENERAL DEBATE HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT EXPENSE OF RETAINING OLD PROGRAMS BUT NOBODY HAD BEEN SPECIFIC. UK SUPPORTED FRG REQUEST BUT URGED THAT NEW HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS NOT BE DILUTED; INSISTED THAT ECONOMIES CAN BE MADE WITHOUT AFFECTING LDC INTERESTS. BELGIUM AND GREECE SUPPORTED FRG BUT GREECE DOUBTED COMPETENCE OF SYG TO DECIDE WHICH PROGRAMS MOST DIRECTLY BENEFIT MEMBER STATES. CONTROLLER DEBATIN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO BEST HE COULD TO REPLY TO FRG PROPOSAL AND ALREADY HAD THE COMPUTERS WORKING ON HIS FIRST QUESTION. AS TO SECOND, DEBATIN AGONIZED THAT SYG COULD ONLY WITH EXTREME DIFFICULTY MAKE SUCH A DECISION. PROGRAM BUDGET WAS AFTER ALL DECIDED BY LEGISLATIVE BODIES, PLUS ACABQ AND FIFTH COMMITTEE, AND SYG FEARED TO INTRUDE. ON NEW ZEALAND QUESTION ABOUT ZERO BASE APPROACH, DEBATIN INSISTED THAT IT WAS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC TO USE IT IN ITS PURE FORM.

3. CUBA INTRODUCED A DRAFT RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT ANY LOSSES INCURRED BY UN AS A RESULT OF INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY IN DEVELOPED HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FINANCED 80 PERCENT BY HOST COUNTRIES IN PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURES IN EACH, AND 20 PERCENT BY OTHER MEMBERS COUNTRIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULAR SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. RESOLUTION FURTHER PROVIDES THAT ANY LOSSES AT UN OFFICES IN LDC'S RESULTING FROM INFLATION OR CURRENCY FLUCTUATION THERE WILL BE ABSORBED BY REGULAR BUDGET. CUBAN REP EXPLAINED THAT PROVISION FOR NON-HOST COUNTRIES TO PAY 20 PERCENT WAS DESIGNED TO OBTAIN OBJECTIONS TO TWO RESOLUTIONS THEY PUT FORWARD LAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY OBJECTION STEMMING FROM ARTICLE 17 OF THE CHARTER. POINTED OUT (AS DOES A PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH OF RESOLUTION) THAT HOST COUNTRIES GET CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT FROM UN PRESENCE, IN CASE OF US ONE BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

4. A FEW DELEGATIONS COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON CUBAN PROPOSAL IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PASSING. NEW ZEALAND SAID IT WAS RIDICULOUS AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY OF UN SYSTEM. BELGIUM SAID IT WAS VERY ORIGINAL BUT COULD NOT BE USED AS A BASIS FOR SOLVING UN INFLATION PROBLEM. ZAIRE DECLINED TO SUPPORT ANY EFFORT TO CHARGE ONLY CERTAIN COUNTRIES FOR INFLATION SINCE EXPENSES ARE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL MEMBERS. ADDED HOWEVER THAT INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORLD INFLATION, THEREFORE THE NIEO MUST COME TO PASS.

5. ITEM 104--PERSONNEL QUESTIONS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE SPEAKER, AUSTRALIA, WHICH ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE UN SECRETARIAT. POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE MANY RESOLUTIONS AND APPEALS PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN POSTS SUBJECT TO GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION HAS DECLINED SINCE 1971 FROM 16.9 TO 16.0 PERCENT. SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT A REGIONAL APPROACH BE TAKEN, WITH SYG GIVEN AUTHORITY TO SET ASIDE A CERTAIN LIMITED NUMBER OF POSTS IN EACH REGION TO BE FILLED WITHOUT STRICT REGARD TO EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. IF FOR EXAMPLE, FIVE PERCENT WAS THUS SET ASIDE, THIS WOULD MEAN 130 POSTS FOR WOMEN OUT OF 580 NEW AND VACANT ONES EACH BIENNIAL. CONSIDERED THIS A MODEST BUT PRACTICAL AND ATTAINABLE GOAL. PARTICULAR EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO RECRUIT FROM UNDER-REPRESENTED COUNTRIES. WITH REGARD TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ALREADY IN SECRETARIAT, SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE TACKLED BY APPOINTING A SPECIAL ADVISER ON WOMEN WHO WOULD REPORT TO USYG FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT. FINALLY, URGED MORE PROMOTION FOR WOMEN FROM GENERAL SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS.

6. ITEM 101-- PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION. DISCUSSION RESUMED AND REVOLVED AROUND REVISED PHILIPPINE DRAFT RES (POUCHED TO IO/SAULS NOV. 17). USSR OBJECTED TO WORDS "AS APPROPRIATE AND" IN PARAGRAPH 3 AND PROPOSED THEIR DELETION. ALSO OBJECTED IN PARAGRAPH 4 TO BRUSQUENESS OF "INVITING" SC, ECOSOC, AND TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL "TO OBSERVE" SYG'S TEN CRITERIA, AND SUPPORTED YUGOSLAV SUGGESTION TO CHANGE THIS TO READ "TO INVITE THOSE BODIES TO EXAMINE USEFULNESS OF OBSERVING THE CRITERIA." FINALLY, OBJECTED IN PARAGRAPH 5 TO IDEA OF ENTRUSTING COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WITH REVIEW ON BASIS OF APPROPRIATE CONSULTA-

TIONS OF THE OPTIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS OF BODIES AND ORGANS OF THE UN, AS BEING BEYOND THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCES. FRANCE SHARED SOVIET VIEW OF PARAGRAPH 5. PHILIPPINES DEFENDED DRAFT LANGUAGE IN EACH CASE BUT AGREED TO CONSULT FURTHER

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WITH CO-SPONSORS. UK, A CO-SPONSOR, POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM OF SAVINGS IF RESOLUTION WERE ADOPTED EVEN THOUGH IT AGREED WITH SECRETARIAT THAT NOT ALL POTENTIAL SAVINGS COULD BE ESTIMATELY PRECISELY; WILL REVERT TO THIS WHEN SECTION 23 IS TAKEN UP AGAIN.

7. JOINT INSPECTION UNIT. COMMITTEE APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION DRAFT REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 99, JOINT INSPECTION UNIT.

8. PROGRAM OF WORK. NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19. COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER: PENSIONS; PB SECTIONS 3 AND 17; AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY AND INFLATION (WHICH CHAIRMAN SAID HE HOPED TO CONCLUDE). CHAIRMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED HE PLANNED TO TAKE UP NINE DRAFT DECISIONS (L. 1226, L.1229, L.1230,).1231, L. 1232, L. 1233, L. 1238, L. 1239, L. 1250) FRIDAY MONRING,

WITH VOTING ON THEM EARLY NEXT WEEK. FRG REP SUGGESTED, HOWEVER
THAT DISCUSSION DRAFT DECISIONS BE DEFERRED UNTIL INFO HE
REQUESTED TODAY FROM SECRETARIAT WAS AVAILABLE.
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